

Summer 2014

School of Public Affairs Newsletter, Vol. 3, Iss. 2

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Recommended Citation

Modrow, Kristy, "School of Public Affairs Newsletter, Vol. 3, Iss. 2" (2014). *School of Public Affairs Newsletter*. 7.
https://repository.stcloudstate.edu/sopa_newsletter/7

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Walid Issa



Sam Wanous

Public Affairs Students Work for the Public Good

Walid Issa, applied economics master student, leads by example as a change agent. He has remained resilient after a remarkable life journey and by breaking many barriers.

He was born and raised in a Palestinian refugee camp where intense poverty, violence and grief were prevalent. At 16, after witnessing the killing of his teacher, Issa was given the chance to heal through the Minnesota-based Ark for Peace program. Since then he has co-founded Shades, an organization that aims to bring Israeli and Palestinian students together for intense training in negotiation and creative problem-solving skills, and is evolving as a model designed to empower future leaders from areas with political conflict. Issa also initiated SAWA, a non-political crowd-funding website that invites any person living in Palestine or Israel to share a creative, entrepreneurial or inventive idea in need of funding

This year, Issa was recognized for demonstrating strong civic responsibility. He received the Welter World Citizen Award, a tribute and scholarship given for practicing his belief in being a citizen of the world, appreciating differences and helping

Continued on page 2

SCSU Survey Contract Work Grosses \$65,000

Ann-Marie Finan (sociology) and Monica Garcia-Perez (economics) recently joined four other faculty directors of the SCSU Survey and became integral to the outstanding work output of the Survey.

The statewide Fall Survey was administered with great success. Key issues researched included Minnesotans' views toward the direction of the state, the most important problems facing the state, which political party (if any) can best handle these problems, and what political party they would like to control the Minnesota House after the 2014 election. Also examined were Minnesotans' views on legalizing marijuana in general and for medical use. As usual, this survey brought two classes of students into the survey to give them unparalleled field experience. The survey was funded by the SCSU Survey.

This spring the annual Spring Survey of St. Cloud State students was administered and the results are just now under examination. This survey included "client" questions from SCSU's Volunteer Connection, Atwood Memorial Center, and KVSC 88.1 FM radio. These entities also financed the survey. This survey included students from three classes taught by the faculty. As in the past 25 years, a large statewide survey on gambling for the Minnesota State Lottery was administered.

Also conducted was an address-based sample connected to an internet survey on extending the local option sales tax for the City of St. Cloud. Contract survey work grossed approximately \$65,000 for the School of Public Affairs Research Institute.

Survey student directors, Patrick Ilboudo (applied statistics), Kim Kelly (political science), Jacob Smith (political science), Karen Stay (anthropology, community health and sociology), Ben Svendsen (history and political science), and Breanna Wiese (sociology and spanish) gained hands-on experience developing the Fall Survey in cooperation with faculty directors, and then took the lead in developing the Spring Survey of their fellow students. Student directors presented results and analysis of the Fall Survey at the Minnesota Political Science Association annual conference, and the student directors presented the results of the spring survey at the St. Cloud State Student Research Colloquium in April.

Inside
this
edition

Task force Created
for greater structure in the
university's international work
- page 5

Faculty/Staff/Alumni/Student
Highlights
Making a difference on-and-off campus
- page 7

Public Affairs Students Work for the Public Good (continued)

others. He was also chosen by St. Cloud State President Earl H. Potter III to receive the 2014 Minnesota Campus Compact President's Student Leadership Award for his deep commitment to civic responsibility and leadership, evidenced by initiative, innovative and collaborative approaches to addressing public issues.

Issa embraces a fundamental belief that this world is the only place all of us have, and tolerance and understanding are the avenues to coexistence. He also has faith in education as the way to lead people to challenge the toxic ideologies that create

fear and hate. To read more about Issa visit: outlook.stcloudstate.edu.

Sam Wanous is an exemplary economics and political science student. Two years ago, he completed enough credits to be considered a junior when he was a traditional-aged freshman through the university's Post-Secondary Education Option (PSEO) program.

Wanous is the recipient of two scholarships that promote internships and learning outside of the classroom. He was awarded the Political Science Riggs Scholarship designated for students who wish to complete an internship at the State Capitol or other government agency. He also was honored with the Timothy J. Penny

State & Federal Public Service Fellowship which encourages students to serve the public by supporting their involvement in public service internships at the state or federal level. Wanous is excited to put his classroom skills into motion at his summer internship in Washington, D.C., working for Representative Rick Nolan to assist with constituent concerns.

Wanous is fascinated by those who work in the public sector because their decisions impact the lives of others. He hopes to utilize skills gained through his St. Cloud State education and experience working in domestic politics to start a career with the state department on economic development programs abroad.

Shanghai University Professor Dawei Qu Joins SOPA as Visiting Scholar



Dawei Qu, chair, Department of Public Management, Shanghai University of Engineering Science, China

Dr. Dawei (David) Qu is a lecturer and chair of the Department of Public Management in the School of Social Science at Shanghai University of Engineering Sciences (SUES) in Shanghai, China. Qu teaches microeconomics, macroeconomics, labor economics and game theory. He also teaches very policy-focused courses such as demography, introduction to social security and management of social security funds. He strives to teach students not only theoretical foundations, but also practical ways to better understand the real world.

Qu is currently researching the theory of social security and public policy and his recent research focuses on urban poverty aid policy. He also is directing a project

titled "The mechanism of urban low income population's subjective well-being." This project is funded by the National Natural Science Foundation of China. Qu will try to explain the impact of variables on subjective well-being, such as relative income, burden on education, health status and social capital, etc.

Qu will be working with St. Cloud State's Department of Economics and looks forward to learning advanced research methods from his fellow Economics colleagues and also to share his research on China with them.

Department of Geography and Planning Awards More than \$10,000 in Scholarships from the Melvin and Shirley Kazeck Scholarship

For the first time, the Department of Geography and Planning will award more than \$10,000 in scholarships from the Melvin and Shirley Kazeck Scholarship in Geography.

Melvin Kazeck graduated with a degree in Geography from what was then St. Cloud State Teachers College in 1938 and went on to earn a master's degree at the University of North Dakota and his doctorate from Columbia University (New York). Kazeck served as a meteorologist in

Europe during World War II, and in 1956, while a faculty member at the University of North Dakota, published "North Dakota: A Human and Economic Geography." He served as chairman of the Department of Geography at Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville until his retirement in 1976 when he and his wife Shirley moved to California.

It was Minnesota and St. Cloud State that remained closest to his heart. With his wife he established a generous scholarship

endowment for SCSU geography majors before he died. Seventy-six years after he graduated from St. Cloud Teachers College, and in a time of ever-increasing tuition, the Melvin and Shirley Kazeck Scholarship in Geography will provide a much-appreciated source of financial assistance in helping geography students fulfill their own academic goals.

Greetings from the Dean



Dear Friends of the School of Public Affairs:

The last time I wrote here, we were all trying to stay warm as Minnesota experienced its coldest winter in more than 30 years. Even though it's been chilly, things are definitely "hot" in the School of Public Affairs.

- The School of Public Affairs Research Institute had an open house in February. We were delighted to have representatives from business, non-profits, and public agencies, and the campus community in attendance. One of the pleasures of the open house was showing off the newly remodeled suite of offices in Stewart Hall 329, which houses the Institute and the School of Public Affairs Student Services.
- Our school's five-year strategic plan is nearing university approval and is now under review by Provost Devinder Malhotra and President Earl H. Potter III. We look forward to implementation.
- We will be welcoming two new tenure-track faculty members this fall: Nimantha Manamperi (economics) and James (Jim) Cottrill (political science). A search for a tenure-track faculty member and two fixed term positions in the Department of Criminal Justice are in progress as well as two fixed-term positions in the Department of Geography and Planning.
- Work on our future master's in political administration (MPA) program continues under the leadership of Steven Wagner and the MPA Planning Task Force and we plan to launch the program in August 2015.
- We had very successful speakers and events this semester. The 52nd Winter Institute was held in February. Congratulations to Ming Lo (economics) and Cindy Fitzthum (social studies education) for their hard work on the Institute. We had some exciting Colloquia this semester, including presentations by his excellency Gudmundur Stefansson, Icelandic Ambassador to the United States; Ambassador Ian Kelly, diplomat in residence for the Midwest at University of Illinois-Chicago; John Erdman, director of Explore Minnesota; and other excellent presentations. Congratulations to Kyle Ward (social studies education) for coordinating the successful Minnesota State Geographic Bee.

I wish you all a wonderful summer and thanks to our alumni and friends for their interest in and support of the school. We are, as always, grateful for financial support. Please stay in touch with and be sure to let me know if you are planning to visit campus. Lunch is always on me!



Orn Bodvarsson
Dean, School of Public Affairs



President Earl H. Potter III at the opening of the School of Public Affairs Research Institute

School of Public Affairs Research Provides Answers to Public Policy Issues

The School of Public Affairs Research Institute is active in many areas of research.

The SCSU Survey is producing research for both the City of St. Cloud and the Minnesota State Lottery as well as training students in survey methods using questions concerning the university.

The latest St. Cloud Area Quarterly Business Report, produced in cooperation with the St. Cloud Times and the Greater St. Cloud Development Corporation, has now entered its 16th year of production.

The Research Institute is directing research using graduate students in industry studies of irrigation and of the nursery and landscaping industry. The Institute recently premiered a prototype of a new report on Minnesota business filings for regions of the state for the Office of the Minnesota Secretary of State. Full production for six planning areas of Minnesota starts in May.

Increasingly, the School of Public Affairs Research Institute has been utilized by city, county and state officials as well as private businesses to answer pressing questions of public policy.

SCSU Students Attend Arrowhead Model United Nations Conference

Sixteen students attended the 38th Arrowhead Model United Nations Conference, hosted by the University of Wisconsin-River Falls in April.

Each year about 300 students from universities around the region gather to discuss, debate and pass resolutions on critical global issues. Students participate in the Security Council, Political and Security Committee, Economic and Finance Committee, Environment Committee, Social, Humanitarian and Cultural Committee, and the Human Rights Council.

This year St. Cloud State students represented Brazil, The Democratic People's Republic of Korea, The Russian Federation and Syria. Three of the students were selected to be their committee's "Rapporteur." Selected students were Alfredo Azevedo de Oliveira, representing Brazil in the Human Rights Council; Sean Collins, representing Democratic People's Republic of Korea in the Economic and Finance Committee; and Nino Sakvarelidze, representing Russia in the Security Council. Sakvarelidze also received the Best Delegate Award for the Security Council and Azevedo de Oliveira won an honorable mention for his work in the Human Rights Council. These awards are determined by the committee chair and legal secretary.



16 SCSU students attend Arrowhead Model United Nations Conference.

Fulbright Scholar Baidoo to Return to Ghana in June

Since September 2013, Paul Baidoo, Fulbright visiting senior research scholar in the Department of Geography and Planning, has been researching the interface between development and the environment, features of political geography/geopolitics, agriculture and food security, resource management, and rural development.

His interests include both their theoretical and applied aspects, with the belief that real progress lies in a closer integration across theory and practice. Despite finding the theoretical debates on these policy issues important, he advocates strongly the grounding of these issues in real-life situations by applying the insights gained to improving the welfare of humanity and communities.

His topic of research at St. Cloud State has been "Persistence of child labour in Cocoa-growing areas in Ghana's Western Region." His faculty associate is Chuks Ugochukwu (geography and planning; planning and community development).

As part of the School of Public Affairs Spring Colloquia Series, Baidoo presented on the food security situation of the Sawla-Tuna-Kalba District, a rural district in the Northern Region of Ghana, on February 4. He gave a similar presentation to the African Initiatives Study Group (AFRISG) on campus and to the St. Cloud NAACP during their Celebration of Culture at the St. Cloud Great River Regional Library on February 22.

As part of his fellowship, he attended the African Studies Conference held in Baltimore, Md., in November and visited the University of Texas, Austin in March for a Fulbright Enrichment Seminar in "Social Entrepreneurship; Innovating Non-Profits and Developing Communities." He also visited Frostburg State University in Frostburg, Md., where he delivered a lecture on the "Challenges of Rapid Urban Growth in Africa and Other Developing Countries," to senior undergraduate students and shared his research findings with Frostburg State University faculty members.

Baidoo will return to the University of Cape Coast, Ghana in June. Baidoo extends warm gratitude to Dean Orn Bodvarsson (School of Public Affairs) and to School of Public Affairs colleagues, especially Chuks Ugochukwu (geography and planning; planning and community development). He also extends his gratitude to Dean Osman Alawiye (School of Education) and Oladele Gazal (biology), as well other members of the African Initiative Study Group for their immense contributions to making his stay enjoyable. He looks forward to staying in touch with St. Cloud State and in further collaboration with the School of Public Affairs and other units.

Submit your ideas

School of Public Affairs is always looking to add speakers and events to the Colloquia. Submit your ideas for speakers and events to Kristy Modrow, experiential learning and outreach coordinator, at kkmodrow@stcloudstate.edu or (320) 308-6080.

School of Public Affairs Global Engagement Task Force Created

In response to President Potter's call for greater structure in the university's international work, Dean Orn Bodvarsson formed the School of Public Affairs Global Engagement Task Force earlier this semester. The task force has begun to work on several important items.

Michelle Kukoleca Hammes chairs the task force. The task force has been formed to advise the dean and school on how those parts of the school's strategic plan relating to international programming and engagement can be implemented most efficiently and effectively. The first items for action are:

1. Create an inventory of all global activities in the school to highlight the quality initiatives that already exist, to provide introductions for individuals with common interests who might be interested in working together, and to seek support for new and continuing endeavors.
2. To provide a case statement for each program in the school, outlining key ways that global engagement and understanding are essential for students majoring in that program.
3. Discuss ways the global engagement initiatives in the school are related to and support the school's strategic plan.

Task force members will work to collect information and facilitate discussion regarding teaching, research, and professional development opportunities related to global engagement.

Members of the task force are:

Dick Andzenge and John Campbell
(criminal justice)
Ming Chien Lo and Rich MacDonald
(economics)
Mikhail Blinnikov and Gareth John
(geography)
Michelle Kukoleca Hammes,
chairwoman, and Ed Greaves
(political science)
Kristy Modrow
(School of Public Affairs)

School of Public Affairs to Host Education Abroad Opportunity in Alnwick, England Fall 2015

Fall semester 2015 presents a great opportunity for students in the School of Public Affairs to study at St. Cloud State's site in Alnwick, Northumberland, England.

Both the academic director and faculty member for the semester are from School of Public Affairs departments. Michelle Kukoleca Hammes (political science) will direct the program and Rich MacDonald (economics) will be teaching. Students also will take classes from British faculty on British history and contemporary Britain.

Students from across campus are encouraged to apply for the program, while the focus of the semester allows School of Public Affairs students to take courses toward their majors and minors, to continue fulfilling liberal education program requirements, to apply courses to the British Studies minor and to spend time analyzing issues from key public policy perspectives.

Kukoleca Hammes and MacDonald look forward to integrating the students' experiences across all courses and applying a common public affairs perspective to their teaching. The program is currently recruiting for all upcoming semesters. Questions about the program can be directed to Kukoleca Hammes, MacDonald or the Center for International Studies.

The School of Public Affairs Commemorates Retirements and Years of Service

2013-2014 Retirees

Stephen Hennessy, criminal justice
Lewis Wixon, geography and planning

15 Years of Service

Linda Butenhoff, political science
Michelle Hammes, political science
Melanie Swan, economics
Kathleen Uradnik, political science
David Wall, geography and planning

20 Years of Service

Randal Baker, geography and planning
Mary Clifford, criminal justice

25 Years of Service

Orn Bodvarsson, dean of School of Public Affairs, economics
Patricia Hughes, economics

35 Years of Service

Stephen Frank, political science
Benjamin Richason, geography and planning

Donate today

Support the School of Public Affairs by making a gift. Please contact Dottie Seamans, director of development for annual giving, at dmseamans@stcloudstate.edu or (320) 308-4970.

School of Public Affairs and Hmong Nationalities Organization Host Leadership Seminar

On March 1, the Hmong Nationalities Organization, Inc.'s (HNO) Leadership Institute and the School of Public Affairs collaborated to provide a leadership seminar for members of the Hmong Minnesotan community. More than 100 Hmong Minnesotans attended the seminar. Upon completion of the seminar, faculty of the HNO Leadership Institute and Dean Orn Bodvarsson presented certificates to the attendees in recognition of their attendances and achievements.

To align with St. Cloud State's civic engagement learning commitment, the seminar addressed topics such as U.S. government and politics, parliamentary procedures, parenting skills and childhood education.

Special thanks to instructors: Sydney Chang; Christianna Hang; Yee Leng Hang; Chayia Lee, chair of Region 5; Neal Thao; Xoua Thao; and Shoua Yang (political science). Thanks to the director of HNO Leadership Institute and to Food Committee Members. Many thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Ying Chu-Yang Heu, for providing seminar space and to Dean Orn Bodvarsson (School of Public Affairs) and Dean John Burgeson (Center for Continuing Studies) for helping to facilitate this partnership.



HNO Leadership Seminar participant shakes hands with Shoua Yang, professor of Political Science

School of Public Affairs Receives Various Provost Action Grants

Criminal Justice Partners with St. Cloud Police Department

Criminal justice faculty members Mary Clifford, Lindsey Vigesaa and Stewart Wirth in conjunction with King Banaian, director of the School of Public Affairs Research Institute and Kristy Modrow, experiential learning and outreach coordinator for the School of Public Affairs Dean's Office, are partnering with Chief Blair Anderson and the St. Cloud Police Department, facilitated through a Provost Action Grant. The goal of the grant is to identify work being done in the public sector in areas of public service, public policy and public programs and administration, and to provide opportunities for students to review, assess, evaluate and provide recommendations for improvement. In collaboration with the police department, students will work to identify a program for further research with the intention of expanding the program under review as it is implemented.

Geography and Planning Department Develops Student Experiential Learning Opportunities

Aspasia Rigopoulou-Melcher; Luis Estevez, faculty of the planning and community development program; Eric Fuller, director of the land surveying/mapping science program; and David Wall, chairman of the Department of Geography and Planning; received a \$10,000 Provost Action Grant to develop a pilot project for the development of similar experiential learning and community service integrative opportunities for students in the planning/community development and geography/land surveying programs. The project integrates theory and practice through guided and supervised involvement in applied and experiential learning opportunities, research activity and community service in the city of Elgin for students enrolled in community development, local economic development, community research, GIS, land surveying, land use and zoning and site planning and development courses.

Earthquake Mitigation and Community Development Case Study in Nea Filadelfia, Athens, Greece

Pat Bodelson (political science) and Aspasia Rigopoulou-Melcher (geography and planning; planning and community development) received a \$9,000 Provost Action Grant to develop a case study of earthquake mitigation and efforts of community development in Nea Filadelfia, Athens, Greece, a city that suffered serious damage by an earthquake in 1998. The process and product created will become the theoretical foundation for a new team-taught course that will be based on experiential pedagogy and service-learning teaching models to be offered at St. Cloud State, a partner school DEERE (American College of Greece), and Pandio University, School of Public Policy in Athens in Greece.

Faculty/Staff Highlights

Dick Andzenge (criminal justice) and **D. Lee Gilbertson** (criminal justice) presented at the Israel Victimology Conference at Ariel University in Ariel, Israel, March 11-12. Andzenge's topic was Powerlessness as a Dimension of Power: Understanding Victims of Abuse of Power and Lee's topic was Forensic Victimology: The victim as Courtroom Evidence. Both Andzenge and Lee will lecture at the InterUniversity Center in Dubrovnik, Croatia at the 30th anniversary of the Post Graduate Course on Victimology, Victim Assistance and Criminal Justice May 13-25.

Cindy Fitzthum '07 (geography and planning; social studies education), director of economic education in partnership with the St. Cloud Federal Credit Union hosted an April Financial Fitness Workshop Series at the St. Cloud Public Library in order to educate the public on financial literacy. Topics included credit, home buying, keeping identities safe and how to plan for retirement.

Michelle Kukoleca Hammes (political science) was awarded a Faculty Improvement Grant to attend the Dee Fink and Associates Spring Conference on Integrated Course Design, May 20-22 in Chicago, Ill.

Gareth John (geography and planning) published an article titled "Cultural Geography on the 'Edge of the Prairie'" in the 2014 issue of Place and Culture: The Newsletter of the Cultural Geography Specialty Group of the Association of American Geographers. The article is about teaching cultural geographic concepts through Garrison Keillor's stories about life in the fictional Central Minnesotan town of Lake Wobegon.

Jason R. Lindsey (political science) authored an article titled "What Just Happened in Ukraine? Two Things, Really," published in the Star Tribune on March 3.

David Switzer (economics) has been appointed director of assessment and coordinator of TK20 (an institution-wide software package used for gathering information on assessment of programs) in the School of Public Affairs.

Stewart Wirth '94 (criminal justice) was selected to serve on the St. Cloud Area Salvation Army Advisory Board. Dick Andzenge (criminal justice) also serves on the board.

Alumni/Student Highlights

Alfredo Azevedo de Oliveira and **Daniel McClure '03** (political science) were awarded St. Cloud State's annual Excellence in Leadership Award. This award identifies and honors students who have demonstrated outstanding leadership while at St. Cloud State based on an evaluation of their academic commitment and leadership experiences.

Jason Blommel '10 (geography and planning; land surveying/mapping science) is a professional land surveyor at the WSB & Associates firm in St. Cloud. He has more than seven years of surveying and construction services experience and is a registered professional land surveyor in Minnesota.

Jonathan Gustafson '09 (geography and planning; land surveying/mapping science) was awarded a fellowship to be a North American Young Surveyor representative at the International Federation of Surveyors (FIS) Congress to be held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, in June.

Walid Issa '13 (economics) was awarded St. Cloud State's President Student Leadership Award. This award is given to an individual student or student organization that models a deep commitment to civic responsibility and leadership, evidenced by initiative, innovative and collaborative approaches to addressing public issues, effective community building and integration of civic engagement into the college experience.

Michelle Kiley '99 (geography and planning; community and planning development) joined the Initiative Foundation team as community and economic development specialist.

Emily Mitchell (criminal justice) received the Olga B. Satre Hart "Giving Back" Scholarship awarded in the School of Health and Human and Services for 2013-2014. The purpose of the Olga B. Satre Hart Scholarship is to provide four scholarships annually to outstanding students at St. Cloud State majoring in criminal justice, gerontology, nursing science and social work.

Kadra Mohamed (criminal justice) joined the St. Paul Police Department as a community officer in March. She recently completed the East African Junior Police Academy and has been recognized as the first woman of Somali descent in the department. Mohamed is planning to enroll in a police academy to receive officer training after she graduates from St. Cloud State in May.

Rimguesyan Wilfried Ouedraogo (political science) completed an internship at the Embassy of Burkina Faso and is planning to attend a graduate program at the Institute of Development and Policy Management in Belgium.

Sam Wanous (economics and political science) was awarded the Timothy J. Penny Federal Public Service Fellowship and will be interning in Washington, D.C., with Congressman Rick Nolan. This fellowship is named in honor of former Congressman Timothy J. Penny and encourages students to serve the public by financially supporting their involvement in public service internships at the state or federal level.



Planning and Community Development Program and Minnesota Economic Development Foundation Celebrate 10 Year Relationship

The 10 year relationship between the planning and community development program and Minnesota Economic Development Foundation (MEDF) has provided planning and community development students with more than \$100,000 in funding for internships and scholarships. This includes an exclusive paid internship placement at the Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED). Many of these internships have resulted in permanent employment placements for students. Additional funding is allocated to finance two community internships in the field of planning and community development throughout Minnesota. Scholarship recipients for 2013-2014 include:

FALL 2013

Scott Johnson, DEED Internship Award
Christopher Belden, Community Development Internship Award (interned at City of Duluth Planning Department)

SPRING 2014

Francisca Abbey, DEED Internship Award
Marie Pflipsen, Planning and Community Internship Award (interning at the St. Cloud Area Planning Organization)
Shane Dalton, Planning and Community Internship Award (interning at the Central Minnesota Housing Partnership)

In a recent meeting, the MEDF board of directors decided to increase its financial support for the program: “[the] board members have been impressed with how many [Planning and Community Development] SCSU grads are now working in the economic development industry and are making a favorable impact throughout Minnesota... Congratulations to you and your staff for a job well done, Aspa!” wrote Jim Maciej, MEDF foundation board member and past-president. The planning and community development program remains grateful and appreciative of the support the MEDF has given to students and looks forward to ten more strong years and more students trained and placed in community and economic development related organizations.



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